(c) whether as our State owned Heavy Vehicles-Factory (HVF) is not qualified for undertaking the upgrading, Government is going to entrust this job to a Russian Company; and

(d) if so, the details and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to upgrade entire fleet of T-72 tanks held by field formations of the Army.

(b) Major schemes undertaken/being considered for upgradation of T-72 tanks include installation of Auto Land Navigation System, new Engines for upgrading mobility, upgradation of protection, Image Intensifier Night Sights, Thermal Imager Fire Control System/Thermal Imager Stand Alone System for upgrading of fire power. These schemes are likely to be completed upto the year 2008-09.

(c) HVF has already undertaken upgradation of T-72 tanks. The DRDO designed upgrade, Combat Improved Ajeya (CIA) incorporates 6 (six) additional features of which 3 (three) have already been introduced and HVF has started supplying T-72 upgrades with these additional features.

(d) Does not arise.

VIPs security

2082. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have asked States to share the burden of providing security to VIPs as the Home Ministry is facing a severe manpower shortage due to the deployment of security personnel for internal security duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of VIPs whom the Union Home Ministry is providing various categories of security at present;

(d) whether the Union Government have also decided to provide additional funds to States on this account; and

(e) if so, the response of State to the above proposal of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) The security to threatened persons including VIPs is provided on the basis of threat perception assessed by the Central security agencies. Since, threat perception keeps on changing the number of protectees and their level of security also varies from time to time.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Population growth

2083. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest religion-wise census (2001) figures reveal outstanding increase in population growth and growth rate in respect of certain religious communities;

(b) the population growth and growth rate in respect of different religious communities, showing comparative figures of 1981, 1991 and 2001 census;

(c) the reasons attributable to such rise in growth rates in different communities and whether the vast disparity was found attributable to a flaw in basic figures; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to enforce curbs in population and contain fertility and birth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) The population figures (in absolute numbers) and population growth rates for six main religious communities in the country between 1981 and 2001 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The rise in population is attributable to fertility and mortality rates. There was no disparity in basic figures.

(d) Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with community involvement in administering family planning services. Besides the Government has been addressing the following areas of concern:

(i) Meeting the unmet needs relating to health infrastructure, health personnel, contraception through Social Marketing/Franchising